(c) In terms of Industrial Policy 1991, foreign equity participation upto 51 per cent is under automatic approval and mining of copper has been dereserved as per the National Mineral Policy; 1993.

Production of MICA

1161. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a sharp decline in the mica production and consequential fall in the exports;

(b) if so, what is the comparative decline in the mica production during 1990-91, 91-92 and 92-93 and fall in its exports during these years stating the fall in the foreign exchange earnings;

(c) what are the major causes identified for slump in the country's mica industry;

(d) the etimated number of workers rendered jobless as a result thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to revive the mica industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Comparative production and export of mica for the last 3 years is as under:—

Production	1990-91 (Tonnes)	1991-92 (Tonnes)	1992-93 (Tonnes)
Mica crude	4052	3593	2507
Mica waste and scrap	3366	2364	1490
Export	42591	34879	25160
Value of export (Rs. in crores)	51.3	55.5	38.8

(c) The main causes identified for slump in the country's mica industry are; lack of demand in the international market subtitution of mica and its product, and the deeper mines becoming operationally uneconomically viable.

(d) During 1990-91 the number of people employed in Mica Mines was 2942. While the number of people so employed in 1992-93 was 2213.

(e) Revival of the Industry can be through steps like diversifications into new products, identification of new applications and markets and technological improvements.